

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning on page 27, line 1, is being amended as follows:

2.4.2.3 Particle strength: Ranging preferably from 50 to 2000 ~~kg/cm<sup>2</sup>~~ kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, more preferably from 100 to 1500 ~~kg/cm<sup>2</sup>~~ kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, particularly preferably from 150 to 1000 ~~kg/cm<sup>2</sup>~~ kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>. In the above range, the base particles show excellent disintegration-promoting property, so that the detergent particles having excellent fast dissolubility can be obtained. The particle strength is measured by the following method.

The paragraph beginning on page 39, line 23, is being amended as follows:

This slurry was sprayed with a pressure spray nozzle arranged near the top of a spray-drying tower at a spraying pressure of 25 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>. A high-temperature gas fed to the spray-drying tower was supplied from the lower portion of the tower at a temperature of 225°C and exhausted from the top of the tower at 105°C. The resulting Base Particles 1 had a bulk density of 620 g/L, an average particle size of 225 μm, a particle strength of 250 ~~kg/cm<sup>2</sup>~~ kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, a supporting ability of 52 mL/100g and a water content of 5% by weight. Incidentally, with regard to Base Particles 1, it was confirmed that pores having a pore size of from 1/10 to 4/5 the

particle size were found in 88% of the particles (Here, an average value for pore size/particle size in 90% of the particles was 2.9/5.)).

The paragraph beginning on page 42, line 4, is being amended as follows:

The resulting Detergent Particles 2 had an average particle size of 420  $\mu\text{m}$ , a bulk density of 720 g/L and a 60-seconds dissolution rate of 68%. As a result of SEM observation, the detergent particle was not a uni-core particle. ~~In addition, the hollowness of Detergent Particles 2 was measured. As a result, it was found that pores having a pore size of from 1/10 to 4/5 the particle size were found in 78% of the particles.~~

The paragraph beginning on page 42, line 10, has been deleted.